

ADMINISTRATIVE USES OF LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

User Agency/Program	2014 Funding (Millions)	Geographic Areas Used	Reference Period	Allocation Formulas/Qualifying Criteria
Department of Labor – Employment and Training Administration				
Adult Employment and Training Activities (WIA, Title I, Chapter 5)	\$766.1	States and Areas of Substantial Unemployment (ASUs). An ASU is a contiguous piece of geography consisting of counties, cities, and/or parts of each, with a population of at least 10,000 and an unemployment rate of at least 6.5 percent. (1) (2)	Most recent program year (July-June).	Funding based on the following proportions: 1/3 on relative number of unemployed in ASUs, 1/3 on relative number of excess unemployed (i.e., number of unemployed in excess of 4.5 percent of labor force), and 1/3 on relative number of economically disadvantaged adults, age 22-72. Not more than 0.25% of funds allocated to outlying areas. (Additional minimum/maximum provisions apply.)
Youth Activities (WIA, Title I, Chapter 4)	\$820.4	States and ASUs. (1) (2) (3)	Most recent program year (July-June).	Funding based on the following proportions: 1/3 on relative number of unemployed in ASUs, 1/3 on relative number of excess unemployed, and 1/3 on relative number of economically disadvantaged youth, age 16-21. Not more than 0.25% of funds allocated to outlying areas. Up to 1.5% allocated to Native American programs. (Additional minimum/maximum provisions apply.)
Dislocated Worker Employment & Training Activities (WIA, Title I, Chapter 5)	\$1,222.5	States. (1) (2)	Most recent program year (July-June) for unemployed and excess unemployed; most recent calendar year for unemployed 15+ weeks.	Funding based on the following proportions: 1/3 on relative number of unemployed, 1/3 on relative number of excess unemployed, and 1/3 on relative number of individuals unemployed for 15 weeks or more. Not more than 0.25% of funds allocated to outlying areas.
Employment Service Grants to States	\$664.2	States. (1)	Most recent calendar year.	State funding algorithm is based on the following proportions: 2/3 of relative number of civilian labor force and 1/3 on relative number of unemployed.
Labor Surplus Areas	(4)	Counties, cities over 25,000 population, and county balances. (1)	Most recent 2-calendar year average.	An area qualifies as a LSA when its average unemployment rate is 20 percent or more above the national average rate (including Puerto Rico) for the period, with the threshold being no lower than 6 percent and no higher than 10 percent.
Federal-State Extended Unemployment Benefits (EB)	(5)	States. (1)	Most recent 3 months for total unemployment trigger (TUR) or most recent 13 weeks for insured unemployment trigger (IUR).	State is eligible to pay EB if: (1) the seasonally adjusted total unemployment rate (TUR) for the most recent 3-month period is at least 6.5 percent and at least 10 percent above the State TUR for the same 3-month period in either of the 2 preceding years, or (2) the insured unemployment rate (IUR) is at least 5 percent and at least 120 percent of the average IUR for the same 13-week period in either of the 2 preceding years.
Youthbuild Program	\$77.5	Census tracts and non-metropolitan counties.	Not specified.	An area can qualify if it is an underserved area, which is defined as an area comprised of census tracts with the following distress criteria: (i) a census tract where the unemployment remains high (50 percent or more above the nation's unemployment rate) and (ii) a census tract where a high rate of poverty persists.
Senior Community Service Employment Program (or Community Service Employment for Older Americans)	\$434.4 (6)	Counties and cities	Annual Average in 2 of the last 3 years	Participants must be unemployed, 55 years of age or older, and have incomes no more than 125 percent of the Federal poverty level. They qualify as most in need if they reside in an areas with persistent unemployment (Persistent unemployment means that the annual average unemployment rate for a county or city is more than 20 percent higher than the national average for two out of the last three years). Unemployed means an individual who is without a job and who wants and is available for work, including an individual who may have occasional employment that does not result in a constant source of income.
Department of Labor – Veterans' Employment and Training Service				
Jobs for Veterans Act of 2002	\$175	States. (1)	Most recent 3-calendar year average.	Funding is based on an estimate of the number of veterans seeking employment in a State as a portion of the number of veterans seeking employment nationwide.
Department of Agriculture				
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	\$268.8	States. (1) (2) (3)	Ten-month average of most recent October-July period.	Farm commodities and funds are allocated based on the following proportions: 3/5 on relative number of persons in households below the poverty line and 2/5 on relative number of unemployed persons.
Waivers to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Time Limits for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)	\$73,916.5	States, metropolitan areas (MAs), counties, cities, Indian reservations, and specially designated areas (e.g., census tracts). (1)	Generally 12-month periods, but no less than 3 months for unemployment rate. Not specified for insufficient jobs criterion.	Waivers are granted to areas with: (1) an unemployment rate over 10 percent for the latest 12-month (or 3-month) period (2) insufficient jobs (3) designed as Labor Surplus Area by DOL (4) a 24-mo avg. UR of 20% above national average (5) a low and declining employment - population ratio (6) a lack of jobs in declining occupations or industries (7) described in an academic study/publication as area with lack of jobs or (9) qualifies for extended unemployment benefits.

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Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration				
Public Works and Economic Development Program	\$96	Areas defined by geographic/political boundaries, e.g., States, cities, counties, Indian reservations. (1) (2) (3)	Most recent 24-month average.	An area qualifies if: (1) the unemployment rate is at least one percentage point above the national rate, (2) the per capita income is 80 percent or less of the national average per capita income, or (3) there is a special need, as determined by EDA, arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions.
Economic Adjustment Assistance Program	\$42	Same geographic areas used in the Public Works Program.	Most recent 24-month average.	Same qualifying criteria used in the Public Works Program.
Department of Defense – Defense Logistics Agency				
Procurement Technical Assistance (PTA)	\$26.3	States, counties, and cities. (1)	Most recent 24-month average.	An area qualifies for additional assistance if: (1) the unemployment rate is at least one percentage point above the national average for the most recent 24-month period or (2) the per capita income is 80 percent or less of the State average.
Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families				
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Contingency Fund	\$612 (7)	States, territories, and tribes.	Most recent 3-month average.	States and the District of Columbia can access funds if they are determined to be "needy," based on a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate that is at least 6.5 percent for the 3-month period and at least 110 percent of the rate for the corresponding period in either/both of the 2 preceding calendar years; or if the number of food stamp recipients increases at least 10 percent during the 3-month period. (TANF automatically gives block grants—with an upper limit of \$71.5 million—to Puerto Rico.)
TANF— Job Search and Job Readiness Activities	\$2,033.7 (8)	States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. (3)	Most recent 3-month average.	The time limit on participation in job search and job readiness activities is extended to 12 weeks if the State unemployment rate is at least 50 percent above the national rate <i>or</i> if a State meets either of the qualifying criteria for Contingency Fund drawdowns. (TANF automatically gives block grants—with an upper limit of \$71.5 million—to Puerto Rico.)
Department of Health and Human Services - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration				
Community Mental Health Services Block Grants (MHBG)	\$462.7	State and Territory governments	Most recent State fiscal year	Maintenance of Effort requirements for grant recipients are waived if they can demonstrate extraordinary economic conditions. To qualify, recipients must show declines in total tax revenue of at least 1.5 percent from the previous fiscal year, accompanied with an increase in unemployment rates of at least 1.0 percentage point OR a decrease in employment of at least 1.5 percent
Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse Block Grants (SABG)	\$1,740.7	State and Territory governments	Most recent state fiscal year	Same as for the Block Grants for Community Health Services
Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)				
Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)	\$120	Counties and cities. (1) (2)	Most recent 12-month average.	Jurisdictions qualify for FEMA funding if they meet one of the following criteria: (1) 13,000 or more unemployed with a jobless rate of 4.3 percent or more, (2) 300-12,999 unemployed with a jobless rate of at least 6.3 percent, or (3) 300 or more unemployed with a poverty rate of at least 11 percent.
National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program	\$25	States, Territories, and Tribal Governments	Most recent annual average	Federal cost-share may be increased from 75% to 90% for grants to small impoverished communities. To qualify, a community must be a rural area of 3,000 people or fewer, have an average per capita income of less than 80 percent of the national average, and have a local unemployment rate 1.0 percentage point or more above the national rate.
Department of Homeland Security – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services				
Employment Creation Visa (EB-5) Program	(9)	MSAs and counties, cities, and sub-areas within MSAs.	Time of investment or petition for alien investor status	Visas are granted for reduced investment amounts if made in a rural areas or an area with an unemployment rate at least 150 percent that of the national average rate.

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Department of the Treasury				
Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994— Bank Enterprise Awards	\$18.0	MAs, counties, cities, and possible sub-areas (e.g., census tracts). (1) (2) (3)	Most recent 12-month period before announcement of application period.	An institution may qualify if part or all of its service area: (1) is located within one unit of general local government, (2) has a contiguous boundary, (3) (a) has a population of 4,000 or more, if in a metropolitan area, or (b) has a population of 1,000 or more, if outside of a metropolitan area, or (c) is entirely within an Indian reservation, (4) has a poverty rate of at least 30 percent, and (5) has an unemployment rate at least 1.5 times the national rate.
North American Development Bank (NADBank) Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP)	\$0 (11)	Communities (discrete geographical areas) i.e., counties, towns, or cities.	Most recent 12-month average.	Eligibility for CAIP financing is based on: (1) significant job loss connected to the passage of NAFTA and (2) an unemployment rate that is at least one percentage point above the national rate over the same time period.
Appalachian Regional Commission				
Area Development Program Distressed Counties Grants	\$67.6 (12)	All 420 counties in the Appalachian Region are considered.	Most recent 3-year average.	An area qualifies as distressed if it ranks in the worst 10 percent of the nation's counties according to ARC's index-based County Economic status Classification System, which compares the national averages with each county's: (1) three-year average the unemployment rate, (2) per capita market income, and (3) the poverty rate.
Small Business Administration				
Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones)	\$2.3	Census tracts, non-metropolitan counties, or Indian reservations. (1)	Most recent annual average for unemployment rate.	An area qualifies if it is: (1) a "qualified" census tract (as defined in the 1986 IRS code), (2) a non-metropolitan county with (a) median household income less than 80% of the statewide non-metropolitan median or (b) an unemployment rate at least 140% of the statewide average or the national average, or (3) w/in the boundaries of an Indian reservation, or (4) a military base closed under the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990.
Total Appropriations	\$83,591.7			

NOTE: The term "cities" also includes townships and boroughs in selected states for various programs.

- (1) The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are treated as states.
- (2) Outlying areas include the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Marianas Islands, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau.
- (3) Native American Program includes American Indians, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.
- (4) Program does not allocate funds, but gives preference to firms in bidding on federal procurement.
- (5) Under regular state extended benefits, monies are not appropriated, but are drawn from the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. If the 3-month average TUR is at least 8%, and at least 10% above the TUR for the same 3-month period in either of the 2 preceding years, the State enters a "high unemployment period" during which 20 weeks of EB are payable.
- (6) DOL proposed to transfer the Senior Community Service Employment Program to the HHS (Department of Human and Health Services) Administration on Community Living for FY 2015.
- (7) Under the Welfare Reform Act, a Contingency Fund of State Welfare Programs was established. Most years it's been around \$610 million. The entire amount is split among the states each fiscal year.
- (8) Dollar amount is the "Work Related Activities" (which includes everything related to the Job Search and Job Readiness program) within the TANF program's total expenditures of ~\$16.7 billion dollars. To qualify for TANF block grants, states must maintain a certain level of participation in job search and job readiness activities by their clients. An individual may only be counted as participating in these activities for 6 weeks per fiscal year, except in instances where a state is determined to be "needy" and the participation period is extended to 12 weeks.
- (9) Under the Act, 3,000 of 10,000 EB-5 visas are reserved for eligible immigrant entrepreneurs who establish a new commercial enterprise in a targeted employment area (rural area or area with high unemployment).
- (10) Per the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA), the CDFI Fund expects to give assistance awards to Category I/Small and Emerging CDFI Assistance (SECA) Applicants; to Category II/Core Applicants; and to Technical Assistance (TA) Applicants.
- (11) The CAIP program is a fully funded independent program and does not rely on federal support.
- (12) At the end of the year, the amount spent in distressed counties is usually much higher than the estimated amount as states use other funding sources to provide grants to projects located in distressed counties.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, September 22, 2015.